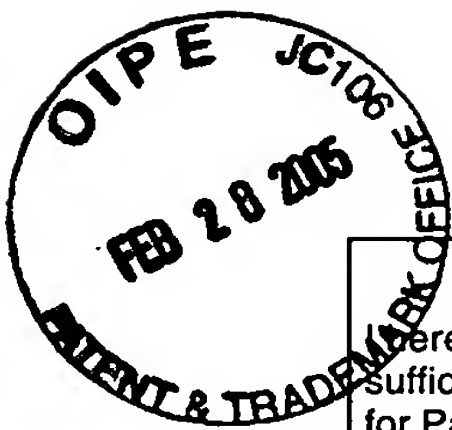


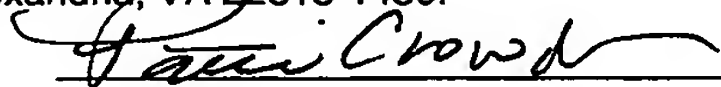
IFW



PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: P180-US

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL" 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on 23 February 2005 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Patti Crowder

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of: Miller et al.

Application No.: 10/612,235

Filing Date: 01 July 2003

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
ELECTROMECHANICAL TESTING AND
VALIDATION OF PROBE CARDS

Examiner: Tang, Minh N.

Group Art Unit: 2829

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on an attached Form PTO/SB/08A is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication, foreign patent document, and pending U.S. application (including drawings and claims) is being submitted herewith, with exception of U.S. issued patents and U.S. published applications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), as well as, a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i).

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. The Examiner is requested to initial and return the attached Form PTO/SB/08A in accordance with MPEP §609. This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

☐ This statement qualifies under *37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b)* because (check all that apply):

- ☐ (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date (other than the filing date of a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d))
-- OR --
- ☐ (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage
-- OR --
- ☐ (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits
-- OR --
- ☐ (4) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114.

☒ *37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)*. If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, or (4) the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:

☒ a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **or**

☐ a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☐ *37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)*. If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113, a notice of allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the issue fee, then:


A. a statement as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; **and**

B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

☒ *Fee Authorization.* Although Applicants believe that no additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due, or credit any overpayment associated, with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (Order No. P180-US).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 23, 2005

By: 
Stuart L. Merkadeau
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Livermore, CA 94551
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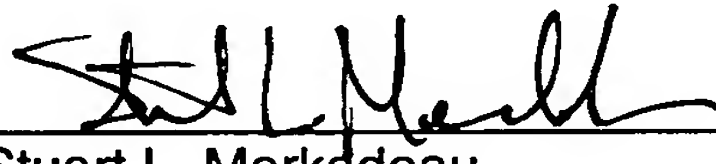
STATEMENT

(Attachment to Information Disclosure Statement)

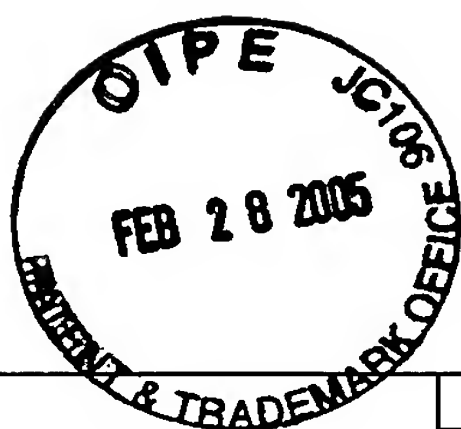
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1). APPLICANT'S UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY HEREBY STATES THAT each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the statement; or
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2). APPLICANT'S UNDERSIGNED ATTORNEY HEREBY STATES THAT no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 23, 2005

By: 
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Modified Form PTO/SB/08A

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/612,235
				Filing Date	01 July 2003
				First Named Inventor	Miller et al.
				Group Art Unit	2829
				Examiner Name	Tang, Minh N.
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	P180-US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Related	Copy Enclosed
		Number	Kind Code ²				
	1	4,918,374		Stewart et al.	17 Apr 90		
	2	5,561,377		Strid et al.	01 Oct 96		
	3	6,414,477 B1		Strom	02 Jul 02		
	4	6,606,575 B2		Miller	12 Aug 03		
	5	6,622,103 B1		Miller	16 Sep 03		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date	Copy Enclosed	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.